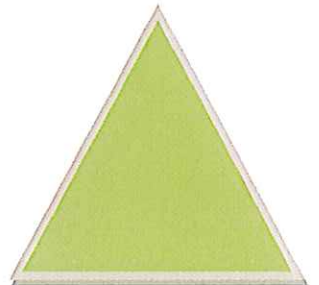


# ATTACHMENT #7



### **FY14 FUNDING PLANS: \$155M INVESTMENT IN YOUNG KIDS**

On January 23, the First Things First Board approved regional funding plans representing a \$155 million investment in young kids during fiscal year 2014.

The plans represent the second year of a 3-year planning cycle and include the regions' projected spend-down of carry-forward balances, Chief Regional Officer Michelle Katona told the Board.

The regions considered the latest data from regional needs and assets reports, current funded strategies, and future growth. They also took in to account recent decisions at the Board level, including changes to regional allocations made by the Board after consideration of tobacco tax revenues, population changes in the regions, and its revised sustainability model. Regions will continue to monitor spending in current strategies, examine their FY15 funding allocations (to be approved in October 2013) and revise their spending plans accordingly.

Katona also stressed the increased cross-regional coordination and collaboration that is helping maximize resources available for young kids.

Following Katona's overview, FTF regional directors presented their FY 14 funding plans (see successes on page 2). After the plans were approved, Board members expressed their thanks to the regional councils and staff for their hard work.

"I am so impressed with the volunteers and staff; the obvious dedication and commitment they have shown," said Janice Decker, the newest member of the Board. "This is such a huge undertaking with so many tentacles."

Chair Steve Lynn said this funding plan cycle demonstrates that regions are learning from their experience with strategies and making tough decisions to fund programs to scale and help future generations of children.

"We're coming in to maturity; strategies have a track record, and we have a future to consider," Lynn said. "Regions are deciding not only what will be here from year to year, but generation to generation, and putting things in place that will benefit children long after we are gone."

### **STATEWIDE SUMMARY OF FY 14 REGIONAL FUNDING PLANS**

- **Early Learning Quality/Access: \$75.5 million (49%)** Includes Quality First, QF and pre-kindergarten scholarships, transition to kindergarten, inclusion of children with special needs, expansion (increased slots/capital expenses), center based literacy and family, friends and neighbors.
- **Family Support: \$38.9 million (25%)** Includes home visitation, parent education (community-based training and curriculum development), family resource centers, native language enrichment, newborn follow-up, coordination, outreach and awareness, food security, and Reach Out and Read.
- **Health: \$20.4 million (13%)** mental health & child care health consultation, oral health, nutrition/obesity/ physical activity, prenatal outreach, developmental and sensory screening, care coordination/medical home, comprehensive preventive health programs, health insurance enrollment, injury prevention, physician education and outreach, and recruitment.
- **Professional Development: \$7.9 million (5%)** Includes TEACH and non-TEACH scholarships, Professional REWARDS, community-based professional development, director mentoring/training, learning labs, language and communication consultation, conference scholarships and recruitment in to the field.
- **Evaluation: \$7.7 million (5%)** Includes regional needs and assets additions, regional family support and early childhood workforce studies, and statewide evaluation.
- **Community Awareness: \$3.2 million (2%)** Includes community outreach, community awareness and media.
- **Coordination: \$1.3 million (1%)** Includes court teams, community partnerships and service coordination.



**SUCCESS STORIES PUT A FACE ON  
REGIONAL FUNDING**

The following are success stories shared with the statewide FTF Board as part of the funding plan approval process. They highlight the impact that FTF-funded strategies are having in communities throughout Arizona. They are listed in the order that they were presented to the Board. In cases where no success story was part of the presentation, the region was asked to select one following the meeting.

**PHOENIX REGIONAL AREA**

**North Phoenix** – Family Resources Centers are a wonderful asset to parents in the area, including one gentleman who found himself single-handedly raising his first child – in his 60s! The gentleman – who works nights – found help through parenting classes and with finding child care to meet his unique needs.

**South Phoenix** – The co-location of various early learning strategies at one school in the Roosevelt District has created a continuum of support for parents and educators alike! Among the programs available there are: pre-kindergarten scholarships, T.E.A.C.H., Professional REWARDS, health and mental health consultants and a Family Resource Center. Through the loan forgiveness strategy, the facility also has a child psychologist on site.

**Central Phoenix** – The region's family support grantees are working in concert to ensure families are aware of and have access to coordinated support services. At one preschool, for example, outreach to the school's administrators resulted in 3 or 4 families being referred for services that same day!

**GRIC** – The region's pre-kindergarten expansion strategy – planned, funded and implemented in partnership with the Gila River Indian Community – will ensure that 84 percent of 4-year-olds in the region have access to preschool within the next five years.



**NORTHEAST REGIONAL AREA**

**Coconino** – The region's commitment to early learning – through the expansion of Quality First centers and homes, child care scholarships and the Summer Transition to Kindergarten sites – led County Superintendent of Schools Robert Kelly to hail FTF as a leader in helping to close the school achievement gap *before* it starts!

**Navajo Nation** – The Regional Council's investment in pre-kindergarten scholarships has allowed four preschool classrooms to open in Kayenta and one to open in Pinon, providing early learning opportunities for 72 young children. Additional support from the regional council will allow that number to grow to 11 classrooms serving 150 children – and include young kids from the Chinle area – by then end of the next school year.

**Yavapai** – The native language preservation strategy – implemented in partnership with the Yavapai-Apache Nation – has resulted in 5 early childhood books being published in both Yavapai and Apache, both endangered languages.

**White Mountain Apache Tribe** – Community outreach efforts have resulted in a partnership with a local radio station that on a monthly basis allows the regional director to share information about FTF, the importance of early childhood and a featured strategy or grantee. The information is presented in both English and Apache.

**Navajo/Apache** – The region's oral health strategy is using tele-dentistry – where images are taken of a child's teeth in a remote area and reviewed electronically by a dentist in another part of the state – to bring much needed dental screenings and preventive dental services to underserved areas.





**SOUTHEAST REGIONAL AREA**

**Pascua Yaqui Tribe** – The Tribal partner that is implementing the Home Visitation strategy has worked closely with the Tribal Head Start to access the center waiting list and provide support to the families that are ready to receive services. The partner also has worked with the Hiaki High School to provide services to teen parents. In addition, the Home Visitation staff participated in a training to become certified to give vision screenings and will assist the Head Start staff beginning the next school year so more young children will receive vision screenings.

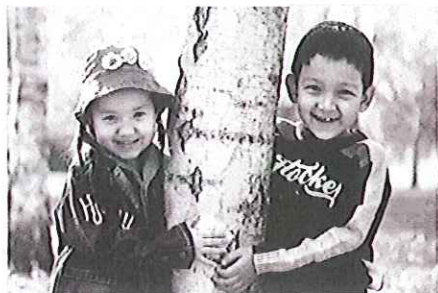
**Tohono O'odham Nation** – Through a partnership with the T.E.A.C.H. program, 12 early educators have received their Child Development Associate credential. The local community college has established an Associate's Degree in Early Childhood and talks are under way with Northern Arizona University to establish a 2+2 program so that local early educators could earn a bachelor's degree without having to leave the nation.

**Santa Cruz** – The region's three Family Resource Centers are aligned with the elementary school districts they serve to support the early learning of children transitioning to kindergarten.

**South Pima** – The region's support for early learning has resulted in preschool programs being offered in communities where limited or no early learning programs previously existed, including the areas of Ajo, Amado and Three Points.

**North Pima** – The region's focus on professional development has brought skill-enhancing educational opportunities in the first quarter of implementation to 115 child care providers in the region.

**Central Pima** – The region is blending their funding with the Arizona Department of Health Services and issuing a joint Request for Grant Agreement to expand the research-proven Nurse Family Partnership home visitation strategy to more families in the region.



**WEST REGIONAL AREA**

**La Paz / Mohave** – Four of the region's nine pre-kindergarten expansion sites currently in operation are in areas where the FTF-funded program is the only regulated early learning program that exists in the area, including Littlefield, Topock, Bouse, Mohave Valley). Agreements for two additional sites in remote communities – Salome and Quartzsite – are in process.

**Hualapai** – The region's one-time funding of several strategies in FY13 is leading to the expansion of early learning opportunities. The region is partnering with the tribe on a capital project that will become the only child care center in the community, and a Native Language Preservation strategy will result in books being available in the Hualapai Language to encourage early literacy in both languages.

**Colorado River Indian Tribes** – The region has partnered with the tribe to link its nutrition and obesity prevention strategies and provide more opportunities for young children to eat healthier and move more!

**Yuma** – The region's scholarship and recruitment strategies for therapists has led to services being available in the region, with the potential of eliminating long waiting lists and/or travel times for families to access needed therapies for their young kids.

**Cocopah Tribe** – Ten families completed training in the Family, Friend and Neighbor program through a partnership with the Yuma Regional Council. This included training on the importance of early childhood, child development, safety and early literacy.



**CENTRAL EAST REGION**

**Pinal** – The region's family support strategy was able to help a mom who had 1 child with autism and another child displaying the traits of autism. By providing services specific to each child's needs, the child with autism is starting kindergarten on track for success, and his sibling is no longer displaying the traits of autism that he was mimicking from his brother.

**Gila** – The region's community-based parent education strategy is reaching the adult caregivers of every young child in this small, rural area. Caregivers – including adult and teenage parents, grandparents and child care providers – attend bi-weekly classes where they learn tips for interacting with their young kids and supporting children's development in positive ways. After class, they are able to put in to practice what they have learned in their child's preschool classroom.

**San Carlos** – Through a partnership with the San Carlos Apache Tribe, the region has begun implementing a Family, Friend and Neighbor strategy. Ten volunteer home care providers who provide child care for 1-4 children in their home will receive training, workshops, materials/equipment and awareness of health, safety and early childhood development that supports quality child care at home.

**Cochise** – Community outreach efforts in the region on helping to build both awareness of the importance of the birth to 5 years, but also to build the early childhood system. From military leaders to car dealerships, more and more of the community is engaging in the conversation on how to help young children succeed.

**Graham/Greenlee** – The region has made the ultimate commitment to improving the quality of early learning – 100% of its licensed child care centers are enrolled in Quality First!



**MARICOPA REGION**

**Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community** – Funding from the FTF Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community Regional Council helped establish a pre-kindergarten classroom, the Tribe has made a commitment to take over the longer term continuation of funding for this early learning environment.

**Northeast Maricopa** – The regional council is collaborating with several early childhood partners to host The Ultimate Play Date – a family event focused on literacy and the importance of play for young kids!

**Northwest Maricopa** – The region's professional development strategy is working with high school students in the Peoria District's Early Childhood Career and Technical Education Program to establish an educational pathway whereby high school students graduate with the skills and tools needed to successfully enter the workforce or higher education.

**Southwest Maricopa** – The region's Family Resource Center in Gila Bend is a great example of leverage/blending funds to bring much-needed services to the community. This center – funded by FTF and operated jointly by Care 1<sup>st</sup> and the City of Gila Bend brings up to 26 separate programs to an area largely isolated due to its remote location and lack of transportation among residents.

**Central Maricopa** – Through the work of regional council members, FTF and early childhood have a growing voice on city committees looking to improve education in their communities, including Tempe, Guadalupe and Chandler.

**Southeast Maricopa** – The region's home visitation grantees have created a centralized screening and intake line so that parents in the region are paired with family support program and provider that best meets their needs.